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(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: Masashi TAKADA

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.